



**CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

2013

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
KING CREEK CATTLE ALLOTMENT**

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permittee

Dale & Janelle Clark

Livestock Number

143 head of cow/calf

Period of Use

June 10 to October 15

All cattle must be your own livestock and branded with your registered brand:

 Left Hip or  Left Rib

These brands are displayed in your Term Grazing Permit that is on file at the Palisades District Office.

Contact the Palisades Ranger District prior to stocking the allotment.

UNIT SCHEDULE

Sequence

Graze 1st

Graze 2nd

Graze 3rd

REST

Unit

Dairy

Miller

Hawthorne Hollow

Burns

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Due to the lack of boundary fences cattle move off of the allotment to private land on the Salt River and spend most of their time off of the National Forest.

Private land fences that are either not maintained or nonexistent make it difficult to separate the cattle on the Hawthorn and Dairy Units you should be able to keep cattle off of the Burns Unit and the Miller Unit while grazing the Dairy and Hawthorn Units.

Proper Use Criteria

These utilization guidelines apply to native and desirable nonnative vegetation as recorded at the end of the grazing period.

The following rates for forage utilization apply to the total amount of forage utilized. The use rates include wildlife grazing as well as domestic livestock. Once proper use of the forage is met the cattle will be moved to the next unit or off of the allotment.

Upland Forage Utilization

Vegetation type

Percent Utilization

Herbaceous vegetation including grasses

55%

Shrubs

35%

Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height

- A. The 30% utilization levels of current year's growth for key woody plant species.
- B. A four inch (4") stubble height will be applied to key species along the Hydric Greenline (HGL) and a three inch (3") stubble height will be applied to key species in the Aquatic Influence Zones (AIZ).

Herding

Cattle will be moved in a timely fashion so the prescribed use rates are not exceeded. Cattle that tend to congregate or persist to graze riparian areas are to be moved first. These moves need to start before proper use is met. The cattle that are content to graze the uplands and are on good feed will be moved last. When proper use is met on the riparian areas all of the cattle need to be removed from the unit, even those that are staying in the uplands. The unit will be periodically checked to insure all cattle have been moved to the next unit. Round-up in the fall must start early enough so that all of the cattle are off the allotment at the end of your permitted season.

Salting

Salt will be used as a tool to improve livestock distribution No salt will be placed within ¼ mile of water, or as far from water as practical. Also salt will not be placed next to roadways or forest system trails. Utilize areas where salt grounds will create the least impact on the land. Move salt blocks often or split the blocks in half so to lighten the impact on any one location. Under no circumstance place more than one salt block at one location. Manage your salting late in the season so as little salt as possible is left after the cattle leave the allotment.

Disposal of Dead Livestock

Dead livestock need to be moved at least 100 feet from system roads and trails, and water sources.

Range Improvements

All range improvements must be maintained and in operation prior to cattle entering the unit. An early summer ride will be scheduled at the spring meeting to look at fences and define a maintenance/reconstruction schedule for the next several years.

Allotment Monitoring

Continue to document dates when cattle enter and exit each unit. We appreciate you utilizing the comments section of the Actual Use Record to document your comments pertaining to management of the allotment. When we receive the Actual Use/Monitoring Report it is filed in the King Creek Allotment Folder and used for reports and planning during the winter.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Noxious Weeds

There are several species of noxious weeds on the allotment or in the vicinity of the allotment. Knapweed is very prevalent in the Alpine area. Musk thistle, hounds tongue and Canada thistle common throughout the area. Continue to look for new weed infestations on your allotment. Report infestations of weeds as you find them. We will get the weed crew to the site promptly so the weeds may be treated before they go to seed. To assist with the control of the weeds please pull or chop isolated plants as you see them on the allotment. All hay and straw entering National Forest must be certified "Weed Free".

Wolf Management

You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. To receive the latest information on wolf management you can contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Any problems with wolves will be reported to Wildlife Services as well as Palisades Ranger District as soon as possible.

Travel Management

Summer motorized use on the Palisades Ranger District is restricted to designated routes. No cross country motorized travel is allowed. As a grazing permittee you may be issued a Travel Permit which will authorize you to travel cross country by motor vehicle to maintain range improvements. The range improvements on this allotment are the allotment fences and water developments. If you need to travel off of designated routes or cross country for any other reason you must get a separate permit from the District Ranger prior to the activity.

Fire

All wildfires on the allotment will be evaluated and the appropriate management actions will be taken. Some wildfires will be managed to improve forest and ecosystem health. You will be notified if fires are being managed for resource benefits near your allotment.

INFORMATION

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions, information about wolves and an Actual Use Record. Keep the information on the Actual Use Record current and return it with the folder to us no later than **October 31st**.

The mailing address for returning the folder to the District office is:

Palisades Ranger District
Attn: Range
3659 East Ririe Highway
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

This Annual Operating Instruction Document is part of your Term Grazing Permit. If a situation develops that require changes to this plan contact the District Ranger and obtain approval prior to initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. If you have any questions about the plan or the allotment in general, please contact us. The phone number for the Idaho Falls Office is 523-1412.

This plan has been reviewed by the permittee and the Palisades Ranger District and in combination with the permit and Allotment Management Plan will direct management for this allotment for the 2013 grazing season.

/s/ Dale Clark
Permittee

5-21-13
Date

/s/ Tracy Hollingshead
TRACY HOLLINGSHEAD
District Ranger

5/16/2013
Date